Million Acres of Uintah Basin Land Divided Between Two Indian Tribes

FT. DUCHESNE — Ending three days of negotiations, nearly a million acres of disputed grazing land was divided Friday between the Ute and Affiliated Ute (mixed-blood) Indians in the Ft. Duchesne region

Officials from the Washington, D. C., Phoenix, Ariz., and Ft. Duchesne offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs met with representatives of the Indian tribes to complete the land division.

Appraised, Checked

A total of 932,858 acres of land was appraised and checked for its animal carrying capacity before it was divided into 69,000 animal units that gave the Utes 73 percent and the Affiliated Utes, 27 percent of the carrying capacity.

(The 699,000 animal units means the amount of land that will provide grazing for 69,000 animals for one month.)

Officials handling the transaction said that "due consideration was given to both the summer and winter range requirements in order that the division be fair and equitable to both groups."

Step For Law Intent

The land division is one of the major steps in following out the intent of Public Law 671, passed by the 83rd Congress, and which has to do with the termination of the mix-blood tribes and a development progrom for the remaining full-blood Indians.

"This is a wonderful step," declared Darrell Fleming, supt. of the Uintah-Ouray Indian Agency at Ft. Duchesne. "It was a very difficult division and the Indian people did good, clear thinking in making this decision."

John S. Boyden, Salt Lake attorney and legal advisor for the transaction, said that the Indians themselves made the decision on the division, receiving only technical and legal help from the government, officials

The line of division starts at Pigeon Water and continues in a southeast direction across Leland Bench to a point four miles west of Ouray.

Utes Get South

Land south of this division line is called the Ute Extension of Uncompahgre land and was alloted to the Utes, who have been occupying it in the past. They will also get one small area known as Sam's Canyon and Dry Canyon which is located in the portion of land allocated to the mixed-blood Indians. However, a small unit in the Ute area will go to the mixed-blood group under the agreement reached Friday.—Deseret News